

What is Claimed is:

1 5. The communications system of Claim 1, wherein the user terminal (110)
2 communicates with the communications platform (106) in a first frequency band, and the
3 communications platform communicates with the gateway (108) in a second frequency
4 band.

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)	(41)	(42)	(43)	(44)	(45)	(46)	(47)	(48)	(49)	(50)	(51)	(52)	(53)	(54)	(55)	(56)	(57)	(58)	(59)	(60)	(61)	(62)	(63)	(64)	(65)	(66)	(67)	(68)	(69)	(70)	(71)	(72)	(73)	(74)	(75)	(76)	(77)	(78)	(79)	(80)	(81)	(82)	(83)	(84)	(85)	(86)	(87)	(88)	(89)	(90)	(91)	(92)	(93)	(94)	(95)	(96)	(97)	(98)	(99)	(100)
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[illegible]

1 7. The communications system of Claim 1, wherein the system comprises at
2 least two communication platforms in overlapping positions.

9. The communication system of Claim 1, wherein the information is transponded according to a coding technique selected from the group comprising time division multiple access (TDMA) and code division multiple access (CDMA).

1 11. The communications system of Claim 1, wherein the gateway (108)
2 comprises a plurality of gateway antennae (402), separated from each other by a distance
3 sufficient to provide spatial diversity in communicating with the communications
4 platform (106).

[illegible]

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What is Claimed is:

- 1 1. A communications system, comprising:
2 a gateway, communicatively coupleable to a terrestrially-based network;
3 a communications platform disposed in a stratospheric location, for transponding
4 information between at least one of a plurality of user terminals and the gateway.
- 1 2. The communications system of Claim 1, wherein the gateway aggregates
2 all data traffic comprising the information between the plurality of user terminals.
- 1 3. The communications system of Claim 1, wherein the gateway aggregates
2 all data traffic comprising the information between each of the user terminals and the
3 terrestrially-based network.
- 1 4. The communications system of Claim 1, wherein:
2 the user terminal includes a user terminal antenna characterizable by a beamwidth;
3 and
4 the communications platform maintains an apparent position relative to the user
5 terminal within the beamwidth of the user terminal antenna.
- 1 5. The communications system of Claim 1, wherein the system comprises
2 more than one communications platform.
- 1 6. The communications system of Claim 5, wherein the gateway
2 communicates with more than one communications platform.
- 1 7. The communications system of Claim 6, wherein the user terminal
2 communicates with only one communications platform.

1 14. The communication system of Claim 1, wherein the information is
2 transponded according to a coding technique selected from the group comprising time
3 division multiple access (TDMA) and code division multiple access (CDMA).

[illegible]

[illegible]

1 16. The signal of claim 15, wherein the terrestrially-based network is the
2 Internet.

1 18. A method for communicating from a user terminal, comprising:
2 receiving a first signal from the user terminal having an antenna in a stratosphere-
3 based communications platform, wherein the communications platform maintains an
4 apparent position relative to the user terminal within a beamwidth of a user terminal
5 antenna;
6 transponding the first signal from the stratosphere-based communications
7 platform to a gateway ground station.

1 24. The communications system of claim 23, wherein:
2 the user terminal includes a user terminal antenna characterizable by a beamwidth;
3 and
4 the communications platform maintains an apparent position relative to the user
5 terminal within the beamwidth of the user terminal antenna.

Figure 1 consists of 12 micrographs arranged in a 4x3 grid, illustrating the stages of chick embryo development. The first row shows the fertilized egg and early cleavage stages. The second row shows the formation of the blastoderm and the appearance of the embryo. The third row shows the development of the head and tail. The fourth row shows the hatching process. Labels include 'Fertilized egg', 'Cleavage', 'Blastoderm', 'Embryo', 'Head', 'Tail', and 'Hatching'.

1 27. The communications system of claim 26, wherein the distance is at least
2 200 meters.